

'Is Japan still the most important ally for U.S. in Asia?'

在名古屋米国首席領事 ハリー・サリバン

Introduction

みなさま、こんにちは。ただいまご紹介頂きました在名古屋米国領事館 首席領事のハリー・サリバンです。

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The title of my speech poses two questions, “Is Japan still the most important partner in Asia for the U.S.?” and “How the U.S. views Japan as an Ally in security and the economy.” The answer to the first is an unqualified “yes!” Japan is definitely the most important partner in Asia for the U.S., and I will spend some time explaining why. I will also address “how” the two sides work together on security and economic issue to justify my reply to the first question.

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Why Japan is the Most Important U.S. Partner

First, I'll explain why Japan is the most important partner of the United States in the Pacific. We are in the midst of a dramatic period in American diplomacy. Despite all the challenges facing the United States – a global economy still recovering from crisis, a Middle East in tumult, nuclear dangers, climate change, and international terrorism – our commitment to the Asia Pacific remains undiminished. There is no more dynamic and consequential part of the world today – and in the decades ahead – for America's interests, and for the shape of the global system, than the Asia Pacific.

As Secretary Kerry emphasized in his first trip to Japan this past April, as a Pacific nation in the midst of a Pacific century, we will continue to build on our active and enduring presence in Asia. And as we do, we will continue to look to Japan to be the most important ally in the Pacific.

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Indeed, our treaty alliance with Japan is – and will remain – the cornerstone of our engagement in this vital region. Why? Our alliance is built on the strong foundation of shared interests and values, democratic ideals, respect for human rights and the rule of law. Ours is a truly global partnership –from our bilateral security alliance to our common efforts on regional and

transnational challenges, to our incredibly important economic relationship, to the friendship and people-to-people ties that enrich our respective cultures and bind us together ever closer. This is why we often say, “The goodwill of the Japanese people is America’s greatest strategic asset in the Asia Pacific region.”

So when the United States seeks diplomatic solutions to seemingly intractable conflicts, we do so hand in hand with Japan. Japan is with us when we strategize about how to make the Korean peninsula free of nuclear weapons, and when we save lives from epidemic diseases through initiatives like the Global Fund, and when we promote justice in the face of crimes against humanity, such as in the Khmer Rouge Tribunal in Cambodia. We count on Japan when we press for diplomatic dispute-resolution for maritime conflicts in the South China Sea, and when we work to develop free and transparent trade architecture worldwide, and when we explore new innovations in green energy. We look to Japan when we combat poverty and advance economic development in Africa, and when we advocate for an end to gender-based violence, and when we work toward a more equitable world for women worldwide. And why? Because the more influential Japan's voice is in the region and the world, the better it is for the United States and for the world.

Prime Minister Abe has made it clear that Japan intends to play an even more prominent role on the global stage, as an active contributor to peace. We applaud that role.

Our joint response to Japan’s devastating earthquake and tsunami two and a half years ago is a vivid example of what we can accomplish when we work together, as friends and allies. Operation TOMODACHI was not only the largest joint military peacetime operation in our history. It was also a comprehensive undertaking between our people – our foreign affairs and civilian aid agencies, our charities, our scientists, and our medical professionals.

So now that you know why Japan is the most important partner in Asia for the United States, I’ll discuss how the United States views Japan as an ally in security and the economy.

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Security Ties

Turning now to bilateral affairs, for over 65 years now, the United States and Japan have built a strategic alliance that has formed not only the foundation of the security and prosperity of our two nations, but has also become the cornerstone of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. Consider this: Where does the United States deploy its most advanced military assets and equipment? In Japan. Where do top administration officials and members of Congress visit on

a regular basis? To Japan. Where do we turn to for diplomatic support on the most troublesome issues of our time, such as Syria, or Iran, or North Korea? We turn to Japan. In fact, the strategic rebalance renders the U.S.-Japan alliance more important than ever. Our bilateral partnership is at the heart of American efforts to create a strong and lasting regional security architecture for the 21st century.

There is no question that Japan and the United States face many risks and challenges – both in the region and ocean we share, and beyond.

North Korea's nuclear program, proliferation, and provocations continue to be major sources of regional instability. Ongoing maritime and territorial issues remain sources of concern.

Other threats in this 21st Century are more multidimensional and complex. We face both traditional and nontraditional challenges ranging from terrorism to proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and from climate change to food insecurity. Nontraditional threats such as those to our space and cyber networks pose new and potentially catastrophic risks. These challenges will demand greater cooperation, coordination, and consultation between Japan and the United States.

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But there is also no question that as the challenges become more complex, our alliance is only becoming stronger. Prime Minister Abe speaks of a Japan that is a "proactive contributor to peace." We welcome that vision. About a month ago, the ministers of foreign affairs and defense from both Japan and the United States met in Tokyo and agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation on a range of pressing regional and global issues – from the transition in Afghanistan to the crisis in Syria to our work in humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, economic development, and peacekeeping operations. Ongoing cooperation by the United States and Japan to combat piracy in the Gulf of Aden are vital for the continued maintenance of freedom of navigation, the safety of mariners, and maintaining vital trade links, which brings me to economics.

Naturally, discussion of our bilateral military alliance raises the issue of how the United States views the Abe administration's security policies, including proposals for a National Security Council, enactment of an information security law, and whether Japan should reinterpret its constitution to remove self-imposed restrictions and allow for the exercise of Japan's right of collective self-defense.

Of course, these are issues that only the Japanese people and their elected representatives can

decide, after genuine and informed debate. From the U.S. perspective, however, the reasons for these policies are entirely understandable. For example, Japan will be a more effective alliance partner if it has a clearly formulated national security strategy, coordinated among government ministries via a new National Security Council institution. Japan will be a more effective alliance partner if it can appropriately safeguard shared sensitive national security information. Japan will also be a more effective alliance partner if its soldiers are able to defend - and note we are talking about "defense" here - defend American soldiers or sailors if they are attacked while participating in a peacekeeping operation.

From an American viewpoint, it is only common sense that we would welcome Japanese assistance, for example, in helping to defend our ships from hostile missile strikes or in joining the United States and others in the international community in important humanitarian operations and disaster relief. We are told that these policy changes may be accommodated without actually revising the Constitution.

But the main point is that the United States trusts Japan. Japan has proven over decades that it is a peaceful country firmly rooted in democratic values, a country that makes enormous positive contributions to the region and to the world. In short, Japan shares a vision for Asia, which the United States shares, that emphasizes peace and cooperation and mutual coexistence and understanding.

Japan will be an even more effective alliance partner if it enacts its security policies transparently, and patiently explains those policies to its neighbors. By building trust among its neighbors, Japan can more confidently play a constructive role in regional and global security affairs.

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An Economic Ally

The security of the United States and Japan can also be assured if the economies of both countries are vital. So let me discuss the economic relationship. The U.S.-Japan economic relationship is one of the most important in the world with daily direct bilateral trade in goods and services totaling \$581 billion in 2012. As the world's third largest economy, Japan contributes to the growth of the U.S. economy through direct investment and the purchase of U.S. goods and services. As of 2012, Japan has provided \$286.5 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) into the United States, accounting for 30% of total Japan outward investment. The United States has provided a third of Japan's inward investment, making the U.S. the most

significant foreign investor in Japan by far.

Economic cooperation between the United States and Japan generates economic growth and jobs for both countries. U.S. affiliates of Japanese companies employ over 600,000 workers in the U.S. Conversely, Japanese affiliates of U.S. firms employed about 300,000 workers in Japan.

A robust Japanese economy is in America's national interests and the U.S. is cooperating with Japan to restructure and revitalize the Japanese economy. To reap the full reward of the U.S.-Japan alliance, however, the two countries need to deepen further our mature economic relationship, harness the dynamism of growth in the Asia-Pacific region, and put it to work for our people.

In Prime Minister Abe, we have a partner who is committed to strengthening Japan's economy. We have a partner who is committed to strengthening the architecture of regional economic cooperation. And we have a partner who is committed to strengthening the foundations of our rules-based, free, transparent, and market-oriented global economic order.

The centerpiece of this effort is the Trans-Pacific Partnership – a cutting-edge, high-standard, multilateral free-trade agreement under negotiation with some of the most dynamic economies in the world. The TPP will not only accelerate economic growth and job creation. It will not only deepen regional economic integration, enhance regional stability, and strengthen our capacity for global leadership. But it will also ensure that the high-standard rules of our free market economies will become the standard for global trade and investment.

Together, TPP countries make up 40 percent of global GDP. And combined with the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership we are negotiating with the European Union, high-standard, modern trade agreements could cover two-thirds of the world's economies.

As the world's two largest free market economies, we have a deep strategic and economic stake in the success of the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Trade and investment are critical. But we all know that the essential ingredient for economic growth and the vitality of our partnership is innovation.

Through the educational exchanges of our scientists and researchers, the United States and Japan are bringing about monumental breakthroughs in science and technology, from cancer research to building the International Space Station.

We are expanding information sharing and research and development between our national laboratories, research institutes, and universities to explore innovation in biomass, hydrogen, geothermal, smart-grids, and off-shore wind projects.

Out of the rubble of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, we have made innovations in disaster risk mitigation, response, and recovery. As the world's first and second largest Internet economies, we are working on ways to make e-commerce more dynamic and more secure.

I firmly believe that when Japan and the United States cooperate, we can out-compete anyone in the world. For instance, Japanese firms, led by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, are producing 35 percent of Boeing's latest plane, the 787 Dreamliner. SanDisk has made the biggest U.S. investment in Japan in its joint venture with Toshiba to produce flash memory.

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People to People Ties

Our security and economic ties are made stronger by the strong people-to-people ties that exist between our two countries. 440 sister city relationships exist between Japan and the United States, which foster exchange and understanding. Organizations such as the U.S.-Japan Council and programs such as the Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange and the TOMODACHI Initiative foster these ties.

The TOMODACHI Initiative is a public-private partnership, born out of support for Japan's recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake, that invests in the next generation of Japanese and American leaders through educational and cultural exchanges as well as entrepreneurship and leadership programs. The goal is to foster a generation of young American and Japanese leaders who are committed to and engaged in strengthening U.S.-Japan relations, appreciate each other's countries and cultures, and possess the global skills and mindsets needed to contribute to and thrive in a more cooperative, prosperous, and secure world. I urge all who are interested in the United States and participate in these programs to monitor opportunities available at <http://usjapantomodachi.org/ja/programs-activities/>.

Conclusion

The U.S.-Japan relationship has underwritten the peace, security, and prosperity of the Asia Pacific for decades. It is deeply in the interest of Japan and the United States – and of the entire region – for that partnership to endure and prosper. That is exactly why we are strengthening our alliance – to overcome the risks over the horizon, to reap the rewards of our trade and

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investment partnership, and to expand the opportunities for our people to innovate and lead together.

If we work together to see this transformation through, we will leave future generations of American and Japanese not only a safer and more thriving Asia Pacific, but a safer and more thriving world. We should aim for nothing less. Thank you very much.



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